

Tribe Minor League Affiliates Performing Well

Currently the Cleveland Indians Minor League system is a combined 252-221 (.533) for the 2000 season with three teams at the top of their respective divisions. No small task, especially when injuries to the big league club have taken key players off of the Minor League roster. Players such as **Russell Branyan**, **Justin Speier**, and **Jamie Brewington** have made great contributions at the Major League level and continue to show the talent developed in the Indians farm system.

The **Buffalo Bisons** currently own first place in the Northern Division of the International League with a 63-39 record. They are 32-19 at home at *Dunn Tire Park* and 45-13 when scoring first in a game. They lead the league with 588 runs scored (an average of 5.7 runs per game), are 2nd in team batting average with .284, and their pitching staff is 7th with a 4.47 ERA.

INF/OF **Bill Selby** and OF **Danny Peoples** represented the Bisons in the Triple-A All-Star game. Selby, who was the Bisons MVP in 1999, had an amazing 71 RBI before the All-Star game on July 12, 2000. In the first game after the break he tied a Bison record with three home runs in one game. LHP **Chris Haney** has been more than impressive since returning from elbow surgery. Haney has a 4-2 record with a 2.68 ERA in eight games including six starts. At Dunn Tire Park, he is 3-0 in four starts with a microscopic 0.75 ERA. OF **Dave Roberts** is 3rd in the league in stolen bases with 28 and runs scored with 71.

The **Akron Aeros** are currently 52-48, four games above the .500 mark, and second place in the Southern Division of the Eastern League. They are 29-22 at home at *Canal Park* and have a 39-0 record when entering the ninth inning with a lead.

CA **Mandy Romero** represented the Aeros in the Double-A All-Star game in Bowie, MD. Romero is hitting .306 with 11 HR and 42 RBI. RHP **Danys Baez** has a 3.30 ERA in 10 starts at Akron. In his last two starts, he struck out 12, walked four, and allowed only two runs in 12.1 innings of work for a 0.72 ERA. Another top prospect, LHP **Mike Bacsik**, has pitched extremely well this season. In his last six starts, Bacsik

has a 5-0 record with a 1.48 ERA. He has allowed no more than two runs and has lasted at least seven innings in those appearances. LHP **C.C. Sabathia** is 3-4 with a 3.32 ERA. Sabathia has started all 11 games he has appeared in and has 57 strikeouts.

The **Kinston Indians** are currently in a slump scoring only five runs in their last five games to drop four of the contests. They have a 14-18 record and are ranked 2nd in the Carolina League in team batting average with .263 and 5th in team pitching with a 4.01 ERA.

INF **Corey Erickson** is currently ranked 2nd in the league with 18 HR and is 5th in the league with 37 extra-base hits. INF **Victor Rodriguez** leads the league with a .325 batting average, is tied for 3rd with 25 doubles, and 4th in slugging percentage (.495).

The **Columbus RedStixx** clinched the first-half title in the Southern Atlantic League but have struggled as of late dropping seven of their last eight games. They hold a record of 10-23 in the second half and are in last place in the Southern Division of the South Atlantic League. The RedStixx lead the league with 193 stolen bases. They

have a team batting average of .246 and the pitching staff has an ERA of 3.94.

INF **Nate Grindell** leads the league with 75 RBI, is 2nd with 26 doubles, and is 3rd with 43 extra-base hits. RHP **Kyle Denney** is one of the top 10 pitchers in the league with a 2.84 ERA in 24 appearances (17 starts).

(The Indians recently renewed their Player Development Contract with the RedStixx through the 2002 season. Cleveland has been affiliated with the club since 1991 and is pleased with the facilities and staff in Columbus.)

The **Mahoning Valley Scrappers** are currently in first place in the Pickney Division of the New York-Penn League. They currently own a 24-12 record, winning their last 10 straight. The team is batting .249, good enough for 4th in the league, and the pitching staff has an ERA of 3.51.

INF **Joseph Inglett** is currently 3rd in the league in on-base percentage with .437 and 26 runs scored. He is also a league-leader with a .316 batting average. RHP **Steve Donaghey** is 3-0 with

continued, see Minors, page 3

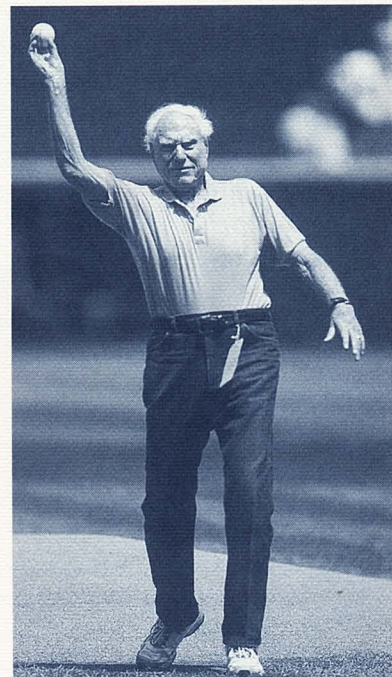
Sports in His Blood and His Pen

Congratulations to Cleveland sportswriter **Hal Lebovitz**, upon his induction into the writers' and broadcasters' section of the National Baseball Hall of Fame. Lebovitz was the 51st recipient of the *J.G. Taylor Spink Award* which honors excellence in baseball writing.

The 83-year-old sportswriter is still active, authoring the "NOTES" column in *The Plain Dealer*. Lebovitz began writing during the '40s, while his "day job" was that of a teacher and coach. At that time, his subject matter was strictly high school sports. Since then, he has authored countless newspaper articles as well as profiles of stars like **Satchel Paige** and **Herb Score** – and so many others!

Lebovitz's unusual career has included coaching at the high school level **and** officiating professional basketball games and Spring Training games in Major League Baseball.

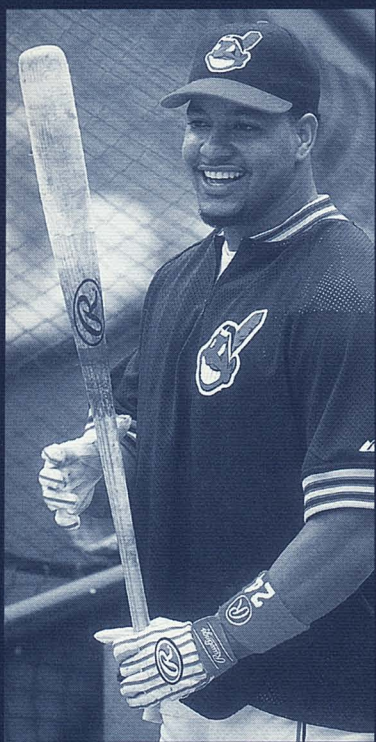
Clevelanders were able to cheer for Lebovitz just a week before his induction – as he threw out the first pitch before the Indians July 16 game versus the Houston Astros.



Gregory Dreazdon

Ramirez Recognized

All-Star outfielder **Manny Ramirez** was named *American League Co-Player of the Week* for July 17-23 (along with Red Sox ace, Pedro Martinez). During the week, Ramirez led the A.L. in slugging percentage (1.120), home runs (6), and RBI (13) and tied for the League lead in total bases (28). In seven games, he hit .360 (9-for-25) and scored eight runs.



Gregory Drezdron

Bon Voyage

The **Cleveland Indians**, **K&M Productions**, and **AAA Travel** invite you to cruise the Southern Caribbean with some of your favorite past and present members of the Tribe, beginning Sunday, November 12.

Aboard the new *Ocean Princess*, Tribe fans will receive an autographed gift signed by the Indians onboard and enjoy a group question & answer session, individual photos taken with Tribe players, and private welcome and farewell cocktail parties.

The week-long cruise will sail roundtrip from San Juan, Puerto Rico and stop in Barbados, St. Lucia, St. Kitts, St. Maarten, and St. Thomas. For more details, call **AAA** toll free at **1.888.435.9222**.



Play Ball!

Plan today to break up the cold of the coming winter with a week in sunny Winter Haven, Florida at the **Cleveland Indians Fantasy Camp**.

You'll receive your own Tribe uniform and instruction from former Indian greats; play in inter-squad games and a tournament; enjoy "Big League" treatment from Indians trainers; and much more.

You can even bring along your biggest fan – as three-day and week-long *fan packages* are also available.

Mark your calendar for **January 13-20, 2000**. Call **K&M Productions** today for all the details about camp instruction, games, accommodations, and gifts: **1.888.588.1975** or **216.662.1975**.

Sipos Rides for Challenge and Charity

Jeff Sipos (pictured right), the Tribe's equipment acquisitions and distribution manager, is also an avid cyclist training for a month-long, cross-country bicycle ride with the *Pacific Atlantic Cycling Tour*. Sipos looks at the ride as a challenge and as an opportunity to help others: "I'm really lucky – I've been blessed with good health. This is a way I can give back a little bit."

Sipos is "giving back" by challenging himself to ride from San Diego, CA to Charleston, SC (September 9 – October 5) and challenging others to sponsor him (by the mile, by the day, or simply by making a single donation). Proceeds will benefit **Cleveland Indians Charities**, which supports youth education and recreation programs in Northeast Ohio. The **Aid Association for**

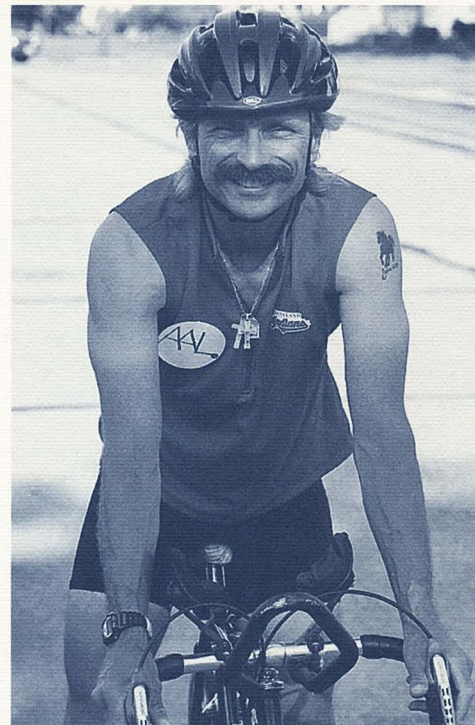


Photo Courtesy of SUN NEWSPAPERS. Photography by Jim Volava

Lutherans, a fraternal organization, will match all or a part of what Sipos raises.

Sipos is a Parma resident and a 1972 graduate of Parma Senior High School. He has worked for the Indians since his teenage years when he was a batboy. To sponsor Sipos and support Cleveland Indians Charities, please call **216.420.4613**.

Minors

continued from page 2

a 2.01 ERA in his 10 appearances with the Scrappers.

The **Burlington Indians** are struggling in the Eastern Division of the Appalachian League, now in last place with an 11-22 record. They have a team batting average of .242, good enough for 9th in the league, and an ERA of 4.66 which ranks 8th.

INF **Henry Pichardo** leads the Appalachian League with a .372 batting average and .474 on-base percentage. He is 2nd in the league in slugging with a .590 average. Pichardo has 2 HR and 13 RBI in 27 appearances. INF **Francis Finnerty** has also done well for Burlington. He has a .321 batting average and is 3rd in the league with 36 hits. (Stats through 7/27/00.)

Indians Players Visit Cleveland Elementary Schools As Part of Summer Literacy Program

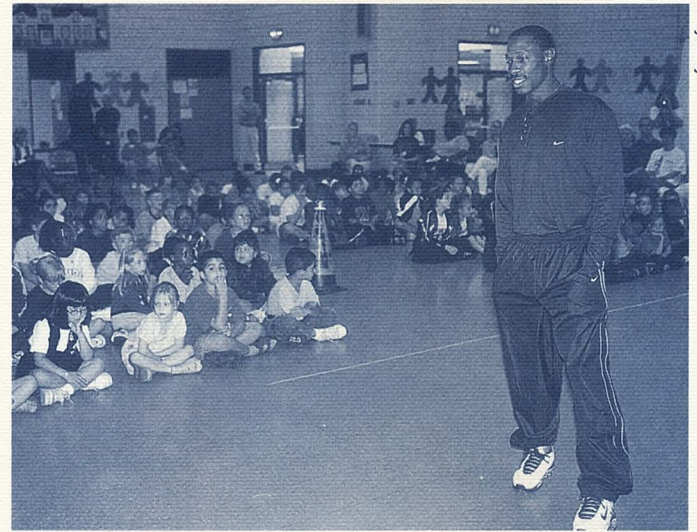
Indians players **Kenny Lofton** and **Travis Fryman** each visited two Cleveland elementary schools this summer to talk about the importance of reading and staying in school.

The visits were the grand prize in the **Cleveland Indians Summer Literacy**

Program, presented by **FirstEnergy**, that was launched this year in the Cleveland Municipal School District as part of the Summer School curriculum. The program

has, as its goals, to motivate elementary and middle school students to read for fun as well as for information and to encourage positive behaviors in school.

In the elementary schools, students "hit a home run for reading" and earned points for each book they read. Students in the middle schools earned points



Tony Gray

FirstEnergy toward becoming an "MVP" (Motivation, Visibility, Performance) by having outstanding attendance, being on time, and demonstrating positive behaviors. All students received book covers as well as game boards to monitor their performance.

The students earned points toward prizes. The grand prize for the top four schools earning the most points was a player visit. Lofton talked to the youngsters at *Marion Seltzer Elementary School* as well as *Giddings Elementary School*. Fryman spoke to students at *Robert H. Jamison Elementary School* and *Forest Hill Parkway Elementary School*.

Above: Travis Fryman (left) and Kenny Lofton (right) speak to Cleveland youngsters on the values of reading.

Indians Wives Begin Raffle

Proceeds to Benefit the Make-A-Wish Foundation

For the sixth consecutive season, the **Cleveland Indians Wives Association** has created a quilt featuring squares representing each player on the 1999 American League Central Division Champions. The unique quilt, featuring autographed photos of the players and coaches, will be raffled – with the proceeds benefiting the *Make-A-Wish Foundation of Northeast Ohio*.

The quilt is on display at Jacobs Field, section 134, where tickets are sold during all home games until Friday, September 1. The raffle will take place in a pregame ceremony on the field on Saturday, September 2, before the Indians take on the Baltimore Orioles. Tickets are \$5.

Tickets may also be purchased by calling the Make-A-Wish Foundation at 216.464.7755.

In 1999, the wives' effort generated \$30,000 for Make-A-Wish, a non-profit agency that grants special wishes to

children with life-threatening illnesses. Their goal is to surpass that total in 2000. Since the wives began the raffle in 1995, they have raised nearly \$200,000 for Make-A-Wish.

The Cleveland Indians Wives Association is a group of players' and coaches' wives who come together during the season to take part in various activities for the betterment of the community and to unite the wives. The Quilt Raffle is one of their major activities of the baseball season.

*In addition to creating and presenting the Quilt Raffle, the Cleveland Indians Wives Association (including [l to r] **Andrea Thome** and **Tasha Martin**) collected donations for the Cleveland Food Bank (more than \$3,000 this season).*



Gregory Drezdon

Fun for Fans and Dollars for Worthy Programs

Cleveland Indians Charities (CIC), the charitable arm of the Cleveland Indians, has three extra-special fund raisers scheduled during the next few weeks. Whether you're looking for a promotional opportunity for your business, a chance to reward employees, or a little fun for yourself – check out these events. Proceeds will benefit youth education and recreation programs in Northeast Ohio.

CIC Picnic in the Park with the Stars

presented by

McDonald Investments



**Saturday,
August 19, 2000
at Jacobs Field,
7:00PM to Midnight**

Join the entire 2000 Cleveland Indians roster, coaches, alumni, and their wives for the third annual Picnic in the Park with the Stars.

Picnic in the Park Features:

- Mingle up-close with the entire Indians roster and coaching staff.
- Buffet dinner (with a picnic flair) on the main concourse, catered by Levy Restaurants.
- Music by The Emperors of Swing.
- Dancing on the infield and bar service from both dugouts.
- Live and silent auctions.
- A live remote broadcast from 7:00-7:30PM by the Indians flagship station NEWSRADIO WTAM 1100 AM.

Event Items to Note:

- \$500 per person.
- Admission includes commemorative gift, passed hors d'oeuvres, buffet dining, open bar, cocktail service and dessert stations, and free parking.
- Casual "baseball" attire, tennis shoes recommended.

Call **216.420.4400** to buy your tickets!

Tribe Jam 2000

Monday, August 21, 2000, 7:00PM, at Nautica Stage in The Flats

Last year's concert was such a hit that we're bringing it back this summer.

Tribe Jam 2000 is again being coordinated by former Indians pitcher **Mark Langston** and Cleveland promoter **David Spero**. The concert will feature classic rocker **Eddie Money**, accompa-

nied by his producer and bass player **Donny Cromwell** and keyboardist **Randy Forester**. They are teaming up with **YES** drummer **Alan White** and **Michael Stanley**. The concert will also feature command performances from **Omar Vizquel** (drums), **Jim Thome** (guitar), **Dave Burba** (vocals), **Chuck Finley** (guitar, vocals) and others from the Tribe's 2000 roster. An all-star band, comprised of Greater Cleveland musicians, is also donating their time to provide musical support for the concert.

Tickets for Tribe Jam 2000 are \$20 per person and are available at Ticketmaster

Ticket Centers, Ticketmaster phone center, www.ticketmaster.com, Jacobs Field Main Box Office, Cleveland Indians Team Shops, and at the Nautica Stage Box Office (2 hours prior to the concert). Reserved seating will be sold on a first-come, first-served basis.

CIC Celebrity Golf Classic

presented by **MTD Products Inc**

Monday, September 11, 2000 at the Quail Hollow Resort and Country Club in Concord, Ohio

*continued, see **Celebrity Golf**, back cover*

Indians Name Director of International Scouting

Rene Gayo, who played with the Cincinnati Reds and later scouted for the Pittsburgh Pirates and Texas Rangers before joining the Cleveland Indians in 1993, has been named the Indians Director of International Scouting.

Gayo will be responsible for all amateur and professional scouting anywhere outside the boundaries of the First-Year Player Draft (i.e., North America and Puerto Rico). His primary focus will be in Latin America with heavy emphasis in the Dominican Republic and Venezuela where the club currently has develop-

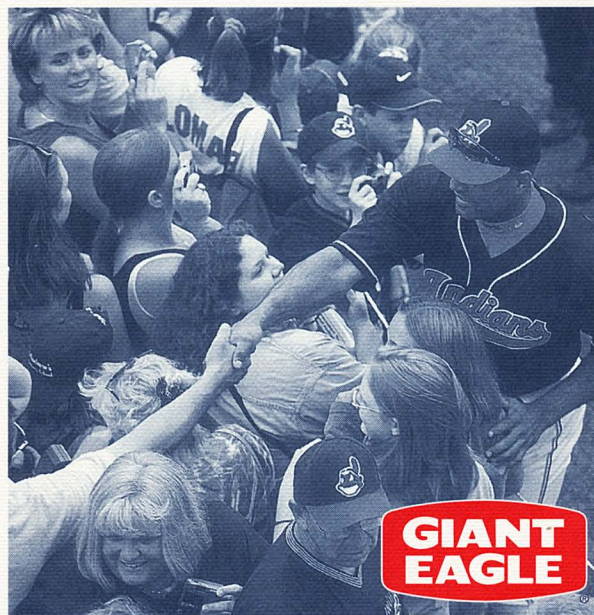
mental academies. He will also oversee scouting in the Pacific Rim, Australia, and all international competitions, both professional and amateur.

Vice President of Baseball Operations and Assistant General Manager **Mark Shapiro** said, "Rene is a tireless worker who is very deserving of this promotion. He is also a tremendous evaluator of talent and will flourish in this role." Shapiro added, "This promotion will enhance the organization's presence as well as player acquisitions on the international scene."

Camera Day Is A "Major" Hit

On July 16, the first 2500 fans through the gates received a special treat. They were permitted to walk on the outfield track prior to the game – for an up-close, personal opportunity to see their favorite players. Thanks to Camera Day's sponsor, **Giant Eagle**, the lucky fans also received one-time use cameras and film to memorialize the day.

Sandy Alomar, Jr. and his teammates exchanged greetings with fans during Camera Day festivities.



Gregory Drezdon